

June 15, 1966

Mr. Sargent Shriver
Office of Economic Opportunity
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sargent:

Some while ago I wrote you that I was negotiating with the Washington Post with respect to the possibility of contributing a series of articles on the scientist's view of human affairs. I do not know whether you played any part in this, but I have made some headway and may then have a chance to proceed with this experiment in commentary. I am writing now to ask your cooperation in letting me have as much factual material as your office can collect on the impact of programs like Headstart and other Office of Economic Opportunity projects on cultural advancement. If the Kennedy Foundation could perform a similar service with respect to news on the mental retardation front I would certainly make every conscientious effort to stress this subject matter in comment. Needless to say, I will have to exercise my independent judgment about the scope of such comment which must have considerable foundation for me to be particularly qualified to deal with it.

Our "friend" Professor Shockley has been exerting considerable pressure on his own for a public airing of his differential fertility program. This may have a constructive outcome since his pressure on the National Academy of Sciences stands a good chance of resulting in a rather comprehensive symposium on human evolution which might deal with the issues he raises on a more scientific basis than he himself might have preferred. I do not know whether this will become important, but I wonder if I could count on the Foundation to give sympathetic consideration to a grant in the neighborhood of \$25,000 for the support of such a symposium should it in fact materialize under Academy sponsorship.

I trust you may find these activities responsive to the suggestion you made some while ago about a deeper involvement of (erstwhile?) research scientists in human problems.

Sincerely yours,

s

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

SHRIVER